

THE EMANATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ASHEVILLE CHAOS MAGICK CLIQUE

issue #4

early winter 2010

NEWS

-- THE EMANATION is 1 year old! Thank you to all who have supported and contributed to our publication since our first issue in January 2009. We look forward to bigger and better things in the new year.

-- The ACMC Solstice Potluck Party on December 20th was canceled due to snowstorm.

-- ACMC meetings resume 6pm Thursday, January 21st at our usual meeting place.

-- The ACMC is actively seeking a regular meeting place in the downtown Asheville area. Please see the sample request letter in the From the Editor section of this issue.

-- Issues 1-3 of THE EMANATION are now out of print following a hard drive crash in September. We thank ACMC attendees and friends who donated software and tech time to get us back up and running.

-- With the current issue, THE EMANATION now has email subscriptions in .pdf format. Please see the last page for details.

FROM THE EDITOR

Growing Up

The ACMC is outgrowing its regular meeting place. We would like to be able to meet somewhere within the downtown Asheville area as it is equally convenient for all ACMC attendees who are coming from all directions. Ideally we would be able to maintain our present meeting day and time. This also helps make meetings convenient for our widely differing schedules.

If you know of a possible location where we might be allowed to meet in exchange for barter or less, please feel free to ask on our behalf. Below is a suggested sample request letter that you may copy and paste into an email or printed letter.

To Whom It May Concern,

Our discussion group is seeking a location to host its monthly meetings. We discuss pop culture, mysticism, philosophy, science fiction, esoteric arts, and post-modern religion. Our group usually meets from 6-9pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

We range in age from 25 to 60, number around a dozen and have been meeting happily at the same location for nearly 4 years. We feel our group is getting a little big to meet in a small coffee shop however.

Although we hold no group treasury, we routinely do business individually with our hosting establishment and would be glad to provide free advertising in our newsletter THE EMANATION which has email and print subscribers worldwide.

If you think you might like to host our group, please contact us at 828 777 9368 or email us at AshevilleChaosMagickClique@gmail.com .

Thank you,
The ACMC

We will continue meeting at our usual hideout for the duration of our search. We have been content with it since 2006 and it is still hospitable. We have no intention of changing permanent locations until and unless we find an all around improvement. Our main issue with our current place is we are physically taking up more room than we are comfortable with. It is not our desire to dominate our hosting establishment. However we have free parking, access to food next door, no need to make reservations or pay meeting fees. It's a hard deal to beat. Therefore we are in no hurry yet feel the need to anticipate growing pains as new people continue to arrive.

Br'er Abbott
editor

REVIEWS

* * * * * Exemplary * * * * Above Average * * * Good * * Sub-standard * Awful

BOOKS

Advanced Magick for Beginners

Alan Chapman

2008

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review by Jeff Barton

The author, Alan Chapman, has been practicing Magick for over ten years, is a Magus of the A.'.A'. and has written for the Fortean Times and other Occult publications. This is his first book, and it's already created quite a stir, as it challenges the view of many Chaos Magicians regarding the aim of Magick.

Chaos Magick started as an explosion of revolt against the staid, jargon filled, hoary old cliches of the magickal world, where a practitioner had to spend years studying Latin, Greek, old tomes of dusty baloney, under threat of being ripped asunder by Demons if you put one foot wrong in your first ritual! With Chaos Magick you could read a primer and get going straight away performing ritual and affecting the world with Magick.

This was great stuff, and many people started their Magical life in Chaos workings. However, years later Chaos Magick might be seen as having reached it's limit....Where do you go when you've worked all the material magic you can think of? Where's the depth? What is the point of it?

This book aims to give experienced Chaos Magicians an answer to this, and also to help beginners get to grips with the basics of ritual and to get them experiencing the power of magic for themselves. Chapman has whittled magic down to it's bare essentials, even questioning the need for altered states of consciousness in rituals. He puts a good case for 'Belief in the outcome' being all that's needed for a ritual to work.

He defines magic as "the art, science and culture of experiencing Truth." In this simple phrase he opens magic up to the search for enlightenment that it was always intended to be. He uses the model of the Holy Guardian Angel for achieving this, and describes a simple way of contacting your Angel without the usual 6 months of intense work as described by Crowley.

On the way to that end he leads the beginner through exercises (and lots of them) intended to open up the practitioner's mind to the reality of magic, and eventually to the point of contacting the H.G.A. The exercises themselves are simple descriptions of the steps you should take to perform magical rites which work. They emphasize such things as deciding what you want the ritual to do, making sure that what you want to occur has a means of manifestation, choosing an experience to perform in the ritual, deciding that the ritual act means the same as the desired result, performing the ritual act, and recording the results in your diary. The exercises hammer home to the beginner the fact that the actual actions you do in a rite are arbitrary, and that it's your intention and will which make the magic work. This sort of advice may well help the more experienced magicians to get results as well as the beginners.

The Chapters cover such subjects as magical diary use, using Sigils, sympathetic magic, magical mottoes and oaths, magical symbols, working with spirits gods and demons, initiation, the Holy Guardian Angel, Magical Integration, and even a chapter on Aeonics, plus a book list to take the reader further. The book is well written, thin (no huge dusty tomes here), and also funny and irreverent. His style of writing convinces you that he's actually done these rituals rather than writing a load of airy fairy nonsense. As such it feels quite at home with the idea of Chaos Magic, being simple, straight to the point, and practical. He has

nothing against practical magic, he just wants to add the dimension of depth and meaning to it, giving it somewhere to go. I think he achieves this admirably.

If you're a beginner looking for a great start in Magic, this could be just the book for you, and if you're an experienced Chaos Magician who feels they've reached the end of the line, then this could give you somewhere to head for.

Qliphoth, Qabala and Goetic Magic

Thomas Karlsson

2009

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review by Br'er Abbott

Thomas Karlsson has blown the lid off Pandora's Box with his new book on black magick. Being unfamiliar with Mr. Karlsson or his work, I wrote to the publisher of the book for more information. I received the following:

Thomas Karlsson is the founder of the esoteric order Dragon Rouge. He teaches Western Esotericism at Stockholm University. Thomas Karlsson wrote the books UTHARK - Nightside of the Runes (2002), Qabalah, Qliphoth and Goetic Magic (2007) and Adulruna and the Gothic Cabala (forthcoming) and gives seminars and lectures on a regular basis. Thomas Karlsson has Master degrees in history of religion, history of ideas and education. He's writing a doctoral thesis on Johannes Bureus, rune magic and esoteric gothicism during the 17th century. At this moment he has written four books published in Swedish, English, Russian, German and Italian, as well as several articles on Esotericism.

Qliphoth, Qabala, and Goetic Magic is a jewel amongst black magic books. Whereas most books try to simply tack Hebrew Qabalah onto the completely unrelated LaVeyan style of Satanic ritual and make a dismal hodge podge of the whole affair, this one introduces and explores the Sephiroth, Qliphoth and Pillar of Severity from a fundamentally Satanic perspective. Karlsson withholds any bias, moralizing or aesthetic prejudice from his uncommonly academic work and presents the fundamentals of Qabala in general far better than any other text I have seen other than Dion Fortune's Mystical Qabalah. In fact this book supplements hers remarkably well.

If the chapter on the Nature of Evil were required reading for everyone over age 10, community and civic life would be radically transformed in a single generation. It presents and analyzes the widely varying ideas of what evil actually is, where it comes from, what its proper place is (burning in eternal torment or policing Paradise?) and how it should be dealt with. This one chapter alone is worth the price of the book even for those with no interest in the occult whatsoever.

Chapters on the Qliphoth, Hell, the forbidden Tree of Knowledge and the Qabalistic view of evil follow and serve as the bridge between history and abstract concept and the last half of the book which deal with more practical aspects.

The final 5 chapters are more or less a compact primer of Goetic magic from a Qliphothic Qabalistic perspective combined with an elementary grimoire of initiation and magical working. This is a wonderful next step for those who began with LaVey's *Satanic Bible* and *Satanic Rituals* and want something more sophisticated yet still within the Satanic aesthetic and cosmology.

If you are a beginner or an advanced student of the darker occult arts, you will find this work a goldmine and a breath of fresh air from an obvious voice of experience. If you are an occult writer, please refer to this book as a prime example of excellent research, thorough presentation, easy to understand prose (nods to Tommie Eriksson's excellent translation from the original Swedish), sensible organization and overall model writing. This splendid book raises the standard and casts shadows on the past "Greats".

An Introduction to Ritual Magic

Dion Fortune, Garreth Knight

2000

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review by Br'er Abbott

Summer of 2008 I discovered Dion Fortune's *Mystical Qabala* which changed both my opinion of her and my opinion of her topic. I decided that I must become more familiar with her somewhat prolific output of occult writing. While I plan to write a future article on Ms. Fortune and her works, I wish to highlight this particular book as it has some unique features.

Most of the "great" occultists of the early 20th century hailing from the Golden Dawn began their own schools and fraternal organizations following the collapse of the GD around the time of World War II. Their successors have gone on to varying degrees of prominence in the occult world, mostly due to their claims of being the "last living personal acquaintance of Master So-and-so". Aleister Crowley was succeeded by Israel Regardie and ultimately Lon Milo Duquette, Regardie himself was followed by Christopher Hyatt and now the Ciceros, and Ms. Fortune has been succeeded by Garreth Knight. She seems to have fared at least as well as her more well-known and more highly regarded peers in the apprentice department.

An Introduction to Ritual Magic is unique in how it is organized and written. 1/2 the book is written by Dion Fortune in the 1930s and the other half is written by Garreth Knight in 1999. However rather than simply adding an appendix or introduction or some other commentary to her excellent book, he writes his own version of each chapter from scratch. For example the first chapter is Types of Mind Working by Fortune, followed by Types of Mind Working by Knight, the second chapter is Mind Training by Fortune followed by Mind Training by Knight. This is the format of the book for 10 chapters plus 3 appendices.

I have never seen any other book arranged like this and I now wish it were the standard format for modern reprints of older occult works. Knight is writing from a 21st century (or thereabouts) perspective and his insight clarifies a lot of Ms. Fortune's expressions and opinions. He is candid in pointing out where her views are dated and provincial and is insightful in offering contrasting ideas that would seem more palatable to a modern occultist. He does not tread on her wonderful writing however and allows her superior understanding to remain undisturbed in the areas wherein he has less to say himself.

The Fortune 1/2 of the book is excellent both from a technical perspective and a historical one as well. It spotlights the high point of 1930s European Occultism and also expresses the attitude of a woman who clearly made a great spiritual journey with the aid of occult training. Her well-noted and often bemoaned snobbery is evident here as well as the genuine insight of a well trained and highly talented psychic. Her prose style is absolutely splendid and her articulation of the highly abstract concepts of elementary mysticism and magick rivals Crowley's (not stated lightly). I recommend any of her technical writing on occultism in general to a beginner as she handles many difficult issues quite well, but I particularly recommend this book as it covers the topic from a more sensible starting point than other introductory texts.

How To Meditate

Lawrence Leshan

1974

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review by Br'er Abbott

Meditation is one of the trickier issues in occult study as the word means so many various things to many different people. The word is often confused with prayer, contemplation, literary reflection, and a few other close-but-not-quite the-same things.

Most books on meditation are written from an Eastern perspective even if written by a Western author. One can find scores of books on Buddhist and Hindu practices as well as some written from a mystical Christian (Gnostic or Monastic) view. One can seldom find a good book on the subject in general unless one wants something no less superficial than an encyclopedia article.

This is why Lawrence Leshan's seminal *How To Meditate* went through no less than 20 re-printings from 1974-1986, remains in print and continues to outsell other newer works on the topic. Leshan is a practicing psychotherapist who has made an in-depth study of meditative techniques from cultures worldwide and has furnished the beginner an excellent handbook on meditation. He is not partial to any particular school and in fact organizes the book around styles of meditation rather than tradition or cultural origin. Some practices focus the

attention on an outer experience, some focus on an inner or bodily experience, some are active, some are passive, etc.. Leshan's explanations and experienced analysis break the subject down in a manner familiar and handy to the modern student in the industrialized West. Each chapter explores an aspect of meditation, provides examples and exercises as well as prescribes meditative "programs" for the beginner to follow in the course of choosing which practices suit his or her individual disposition and desire.

I cannot recommend this book highly enough. It is an excellent supplement to Crowley's exemplary *Book 4*, a work I have praised elsewhere. This 160 page paperback is as good as a trip to a Tibetan Monastery or 40 days and nights in the desert.

TAROT DECK

Initiatory Tarot of the Golden Dawn

Berti, Evangelisti

2008

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review by Br'er Abbott

This new Tarot deck, available from Llewellyn Press, is one of the most impressive of the new decks designed by Giordano Berti. This Italian artist has designed several new decks based upon his own interpretation of various traditions embracing the symbols found in the Tarot.

This particular deck is designed around the descriptions of the cards found in *The Golden Dawn* by Israel Regardie. These do NOT correspond with Arthur Edward Waite's descriptions in his seminal *Pictorial Key to the Tarot*. A particularly outstanding variation is the Lovers (VI) card. In Waite's book and deck, this card shows a Garden of Eden scene with a man and a woman and two trees with a snake and an angel. In this Golden Dawn-style deck, it portrays Andromeda chained to the rocks of the seashore in sacrificial offering to the Sea Serpent known as the Kraaken. It also shows Perseus swooping down from the sky with the head of the Gorgon Medusa to slay the monster and free her.

The illustrations are masterfully done by Patrizio Evangelisti. The style is reminiscent of fantasy illustration, similar to that found in *Heavy Metal* magazine yet without seeming cartoonish or juvenile. The figures, colors, composition and overall execution are flawless. Evangelisti has a great command of gesture and lighting that accentuates the life-like quality of all 78 cards. The depictions of the women in this deck are especially tasteful, portraying them with widely varying faces and ages and differing body shapes. None look like cheesecake pinups, all look like real women you actually know from somewhere. Notice the 9 of Pentacles and the High Priestess (II). These figures were selected for the power of their overall feminine qualities rather than the mere sexual appeal of their bodies. This element has often been downplayed in other decks, mostly designed by men, and it is refreshing to see this improved imagery in a deck that was not designed to be a Tarot of feminist pagan women.

The cards are of typical size, on good paper stock with a protective plastic coating thin enough that they do not feel like a stack of credit cards. They are not too slick to handle and shuffle easily and they do not generate out of control static electricity in the winter (I once read for a sitter who received a mild shock from the Tarot deck and became so alarmed I discontinued the session). The booklet with the deck is well written although the text is a little too small to read easily.

I recommend this both for the learner and the more experienced reader.

DVDs

Perfume: the Story of a Murderer

feature film directed by Tom Tykwer

2006

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review by Br'er Abbott

2006 was the best year of the decade for movies. The most overlooked and underrated film of that great year, and in my opinion of the decade as a whole, was *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*. It was deemed "unmarketable" for US audiences (because it was a good film?) and was offered in only a limited release in very

few theaters. It has also apparently slept quietly on the shelf as a DVD for 4 years. No one I know has heard of it except for the friend who recommended it to me.

And oh what a friend she is! I rudely borrowed the DVD and didn't watch or return it for months. I thought the title was a turnoff. Then in a fit of guilt I decided to watch it "to get it over with" and return it. I then witnessed the most glorious 147 minutes of cinematic genius I have witnessed since 2001's *The Believer*. I have shown this to as many people as I can since and it has made consistently the same impression on all.

The film concerns the life of a poor illiterate young man (played by Ben Whishaw) in 18th century Paris who has an amazing sense of smell and a talent for discerning scents. He becomes the prodigious apprentice of the local Master Perfumer (deftly portrayed by Dustin Hoffman) and begins a quest for the ultimate secret of preserving an individual's personal scent. He believes this to be a person's essence and the secret to immortality. This pursuit becomes a murderous obsession as his experiments become increasingly bizarre and lethal. The ending is unlike any movie I have ever seen and naturally I will leave it a surprise for those who wish to indulge in this penetrating experience of a film.

What is the relevance of this movie to occultism? The central character Jean-Baptiste Grenouille is an olfactory genius and essentially a freak of nature. His destiny in this world is unique and inimitable. His true calling is unmistakable from the moment of his birth in the filthy stinking streets of a village fish market. If one were to liken his talent for distinguishing fragrances to one's True Will and his apprenticeship to The Great Work, then one has an amazing alchemical parable, passionate and splendidly beautiful in its defiance of death.

This movie is truly rapturous and can really only be shared as an experience. To describe it, even to praise it is to denigrate it somehow. Just watch it and you will surely see in it a stunning portrayal of the essence of occultism.

In Search of the Great Beast 666
documentary directed by Robert Garofalo
2009

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review by Br'er Abbott

The Wikipedia.org article on Aleister Crowley is better than this. Avoid.

IT CAME FROM CYBERSPACE

Here is a new space in our print edition for showing off art, opinions, ideas, stories etc., from our Youtube viewers. Send submissions to the email address on the last page.



incense burners by subscriber/contributor Jeff Barton (Raindog951)

ABOUT THE EMANATION

THE EMANATION is the official newsletter of the Asheville Chaos Magick Clique. We offer a means of communicating for those who are unable to attend regular ACMC meetings. Our print edition features ACMC news and reviews of materials currently in use by ACMC attendees as well as others further away.

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Subscriptions last for 6 issues. Although we have bi-monthly publication as a goal, we presently aim at quarterly issues. In other words, we print as often as we have worthy material, so we may take a little more than a year to produce 6 issues. Printed editions are \$15 for 6 issues (includes postage). Emailed .pdf subscriptions are \$10 for 6 issues.

Submissions are welcome. Email to the address below and include "Emanation Submission" in the headline.

Our print edition includes listings for solitary practitioners to advertise themselves or goods and services or seek the same. Listings under 100 words are free and will run for 3 issues or until canceled by lister. All listings are subject to editing and must be clearly labeled OFFERED, Goods, Services or Announcements or WANTED, Goods, Services or Other. **Note: neither the ACMC nor THE EMANATION assume any liability for eventualities resulting from sharing contact information.** Email listings to the address below. Please include "Emanation Listing" in the headline.

Contact us at:

AshevilleChaosMagickClique@gmail.com

or

828 777 9368, leave a message.

Online we have our own channel on Youtube.com which is called *theEMANATIONvideo*. This is a wider-range beacon for solitary occultists and is viewed by subscribers worldwide.

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ABOUT THE ASHEVILLE CHAOS MAGICK CLIQUE

The ACMC is a discussion group formed in July 2006 for individuals interested in Chaos Magick.

We get our ideas from researchers, writers and lecturers like Peter J. Carroll, Aleister Crowley, Timothy Leary, Anton LaVey, Phil Hine, Thomas Szasz, Robert Anton Wilson, F. David Peat, Ramsey Dukes, Christopher Hyatt, Fred Alan Wolf, John C. Lilly, Itzhak Bentov and others.

For more information on Chaos Magick generally, please refer to:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/chaos_magick

<http://www.boudicca.de/max1-e.htm>

<http://www.chaosmatrix.org>

As a Chaos-themed group, we are informal, disorganized and meet sporadically. Call 828 777 9368 for more information.

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